

SUGGESTIONS FOR PRAYING FOR OUR PASTORS

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1. Pray for our pastors to continue to love God with all their hearts, souls, minds and strength. Pray that God's Spirit speaks powerfully in their hearts. Ask Him to lend His wisdom to each so that they may continue to focus on biblical priorities.

Deut. 6:5 "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your souls, and with all your strength."

Matt. 6:3 "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."

2. Pray that they continue to cultivate strong character and uncompromising integrity. Ask that their testimonies of the Good News ring true to all who hear and their actions be a beacon to all who see.

I Tim. 1:5 "Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith..."

I Tim. 3:7 "Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil."

Eph. 6:10-12 "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."

3. Pray that their personal walks with God bring refreshed spirits and renewed souls. Ask God to provide quiet times with Him so that each day, they are given clarity of purpose, wisdom and peace in every aspect of their lives.

Mark 1:35 "Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed."

2 Tim. 15-16 "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

4. Pray that our pastors are granted the discernment needed to employ wise use of Scripture. Ask that they be given great faith in God's power to work toward all that is good. Pray for their Divine protection, spiritual, physical and mental, so that God's heart may be revealed and His vision come to fruition. Ask God to grant them the patience and endurance to overcome any opposition to His will as they counsel.

Mal. 2:7 "For the lips of a priest should keep knowledge. And people should seek the law from his mouth; For he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts."

James 1:5-6 "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. ⁶But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind."

John 17:15 "I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one."

5. Ask God to protect each marriage and keep it strong as a model of Christ's relationship with the Church. Pray that our pastors always remember the importance of unity within their homes and to cherish their spouse as Christ cherishes the Church. Pray that each household give and find the encouragement, love, joy and support they need.

Eph. 5:23-33 ²³For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church ... ²⁴Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands ... ²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her ... ²⁸So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. ... just as the Lord does the church. ³⁰For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. ... ³³Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself ..."

6. Pray that God protects the pastors and their families from all malignity. Pray that the family members reside in truth and in peace, come what may. Pray that their prayer and devotional life remain a constant, in unity, and that their minds and hearts are guarded from the attacks of the enemy.

Heb. 12:15 " ... looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled."

Prov. 4:23 "Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life."

"I urge you, brothers...that you join me in my struggle by praying to God for me." Romans 15:30

7. Pray that God protects our pastors from all evil. Ask particularly that God protect them from the taint and temptation of this world as they minister among the lost.

Isa. 54:17 "No weapon formed against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord and this is their vindication from me," declares the LORD."

1 John 17:15 "My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. ¹⁷Sanctify them by the truth; youth word is truth."

8. Pray that all media (internet related and all others), under God's guidance, become a powerful amplifier in their efforts to spread the Gospel. Pray that any ungodly influences of media are rendered ineffectual on them, their families and to whom they minister.

2 Cor. 10:4 "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds..."

Jer. 15:19 "You are to influence them. Do not let them influence you."

9. Pray that God will bring godly friends and encouragers to the pastors and their families, to strengthen them for the ministry and provide meaningful fellowship and times of rest. Pray also, that we as a congregation, because of our love for Christ, provide the help and support our pastors need.

Proverbs 27:9 "Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart, and the pleasantness of one's friend springs from his earnest counsel."

Phil. 2:19-24 "But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, that I also may be encouraged when I know your state. ²⁰For I have no one like-minded, who will sincerely care for your state. ²¹For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus. ²²But you know his proven character, that as a son with his father he served with me in the gospel. ²³Therefore I hope to send him at once, as soon as I see how it goes with me. ²⁴But I trust in the Lord that I myself shall also come shortly."

Eph. 4:11-13 "So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith..."

10. Pray that our pastors continue strong in their humility, that their authenticity of faith is abundantly apparent to all whom they encounter. Pray that it is always well received, particularly by those who do not know our Messiah.

2 Cor. 10:1 "By the humility and gentleness of Christ, I appeal to you..."

Phil. 2:1-4 "Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ²then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. ³Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others."

Micah 6:8 "He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?"

11. Pray for the health of our pastors and their families. Ask that the concerns of the ministry and their need for rest, recharge and personal care are in harmony. Pray that God grants them the energy they need to run the race.

1 Sam. 16:12 "So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; this is the one."

Exo. 23:25 "Worship the Lord your God, and his blessing will be one your food and water. I will take away sickness from among you..."

1 Cor. 19:20 "Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? ²⁰For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."

12. Pray that as our pastoral staff fast and pray, a mighty move of the Spirit will transform lives so that all may see the Glory of God.

Isaiah 58:6 "Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?"

Rom. 12:1 "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service."

Daniel 9:3 "Then I set my face toward the Lord God to make request by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes."

13. Pray for our pastor's children; ask that God grant them the grace and the patient endurance they need when their families face the pressures of the ministry. Pray that their homes be strongholds of peace so that they may emerge each day with full focus on God's vision for the future.

Matt. 5:11 "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets before you."

Gen. 7:1 "The Lord then said to Noah, Go into the ark, you and your whole family, because I have found you righteous in this generation." 8:18 "So Noah came out, together with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives."

2 Tim. 4:1-2 "I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: ²Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching."

14. Praise God for our pastors' leadership and pray that they will make godly decisions. Pray that they will lead with a shepherd's heart, and always speak the truth in love.

1 Kings 3:9 "Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?"

1 Peter 5:2 "Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly."

15. Pray that our pastors will be courageous in the pulpit in proclaiming Christ, and confident in the use of the Word of God. Ask God to help them preach with insight, transparency and humility.

Col. 1:28 "Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus."

Eph. 6:19 ... "and pray for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel ..."

2 Tim. 2:15 "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

16. Pray that our pastors will be "Great Commission men" – committed to personal evangelism and the disciplining of the saints. Pray for a continued heart for our thriving missions program.

Rom. 10:15 "And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!"

Matt. 28:19-20 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you."

Luke 19:10 "...for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

17. Pray that our pastors will be men of prayer and worship, and that they will lead by example – teaching the congregation how to worship and walk in a close relationship with the Father.

1 Thess. 5:17 "...pray without ceasing."

Eph. 6:18 "...praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints."

Mark 1:35 "Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed."

Luke 22:36 "Then He said to them, Why do you sleep? Rise and pray, lest you enter into temptation."

18. Pray that the pastors will use wise time management, that they will seek God's perspective for scheduling, guarding their time against unnecessary interruptions.

Eph. 5:15-16 "See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, ¹⁶redeeming the time, because the days are evil."

Col. 4:5 "Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time."

John 9:4 "I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work."

19. Pray for a fresh, divine anointing on our pastors' ministries. Pray that God's working will be powerfully evident both in their personal lives and the spiritual lives of our church body.

1 Cor. 9:27 "But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified for the prize."

Rom. 15:18-19a "...For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ has not accomplished through me, in word and deed, to make the Gentiles obedient ¹⁹in mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God."

2 Cor. 3:6 "...who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit, for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life."

20. Pray that our pastors will take on the Word of God and walk in the fear of the Lord – rather than fear of man – as they prepare messages. Pray they will seek to please God rather than men, and pursue holiness rather than the praise of men.

Acts 6:4 ... "but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

Prov. 19:23 "The fear of the LORD leads to life, and he who has it will abide in satisfaction; He will not be visited with evil."

Heb. 11:6 ... "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."

21. Pray that our pastors' leadership will reflect a servant's heart, edifying the congregation with wisdom and serving with God's "agape" love.

Eph. 6:7 "...doing the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men..."

Phil. 2:3-4 "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others."

Mark 10:43b-45 "But sin shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. ⁴⁵For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

22. Pray for spiritual unity in the church staff and among the spiritual leadership of the church. Pray that the enemy will not be allowed to create divisions, strife, or misunderstanding among the church leaders.

1 Cor. 12:25 "...so that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another."

Rom. 14:19 "So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual up-building."

23. Pray that God will give our pastors a clear, biblical vision of what our church can be and should be for His glory, and that he will communicate that vision clearly and confidently to the church.

Prov. 29:18 "Where there is not prophetic vision the people cast off restraint" (or are discouraged).

John 15:16 "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you."

Mal. 3:11 "I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not fail to bear, says the LORD of hosts."

24. Pray that our pastors will seek God for personal revival and revival in our church and community.

2 Chron. 7:14 "...if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

Psalms 69:32 "When the humble see it they will be glad; you who seek God, let your hearts revive."

25. Pray that our pastors will think biblically, with the "mind of Christ."

1 Cor. 2:16 "For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ."

Col. 2:6-8 "So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. ⁸See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ."

26. Pray that they will earnestly seek God's will and be committed to instant and complete obedience – ready for God to work powerfully in and through ministry.

2 Cor. 10:3-5 "For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."

Luke 9:23-24 "And he said to all, If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it."

27. Pray that our pastors will not regard discouragement, but will deal with inevitable criticism and conflict by committing themselves into the hands of God, who judges righteously.

1 Pet. 2:23 "When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to Him who judges justly."

28. Pray that our pastors will continue to strive for personal excellence and to believe God for all He wants to do in the congregation.

2 Pet. 1:3-8 "His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption of the world. For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Col. 3:23-24 "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."

29. Pray that our pastors will continue to be people of faith with a passionate love for God, not giving in to worries, fears, or an uptight and anxious spirit.

1 John 4:18-19 "There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. We love because he first loved us."

Proverbs 35-6 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

30. Ask God to provide for the financial needs of our pastors and their families. Pray that leadership will be wise stewards of both personal finances and church funds.

Phil. 4:19 "And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory In Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen"

Hebrews 13:5-8 "Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have because God has said, never will I leave you; never will I forsake you. So we say with confidence, The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?" Remember your leaders who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."

1 Tim. 6:11-12 "But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses."

Psalms 37:25 "I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken, or their children begging bread. They are always generous and lend freely; their children will be a blessing."

31. Ask God to heal any hurts that our pastors may have suffered in the ministry. Pray that our pastors will serve the Lord with gladness, and encourage the congregation to worship God with a joyful, surrendered spirit.

Isaiah 61:1-3 "The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion – to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oils of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor."

Psalms 100:2 "Serve the Lord with gladness; Come before His presence with singing."

James 2:26 "For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also."